

Page 2, line 1, insert: --DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

Page 2, line 20, insert: --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 3, line 1, insert: --DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED  
EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 6, line 7, insert: --EXAMPLES--.

Page 19, line 1, delete "What is claimed is" and substitute therefor  
--CLAIMS--.

Page 13, line 1, delete "Abstract" and substitute therefor --ABSTRACT OF  
THE DISCLOSURE--.

**In the Claims**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- [Handwritten: SUB 1]*
1. (Once Amended) A water-soluble ionic cellulose ether comprising a hydroxyalkylcellulose having on average from 0.001 to 1.0 alkyl group per anhydroglucose unit substitutions and from 0.01 to 0.1 sulfoalkyl group per anhydroglucose unit, wherein the degree of hydroxyalkylation is greater than 2.3.